

means that over \$3 billion a year will be taken from the grasp of bureaucrats and put into the hands of a teacher who knows your child's name.

Mr. Speaker, that means that every classroom in America will get over \$500 more per year. Instead of paying for reports, studies, and layers of bureaucracy, our tax dollars should be used to pay for teachers' salaries, textbooks, computers, microscopes and maps. That is what this bill does.

Last October the Dollars to the Classroom resolution, sense of the House resolution, passed overwhelmingly. Now, in 1998, we must put rhetoric into action by passing the Dollars to the Classroom Act into law before our children return to school next fall.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND IS NOT A LOAN PROGRAM

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Japan is beating the White House like a drum. Check this out: Japan lets the yen hit rock bottom, making Japanese products lower than a Dolly Parton wonder bra, forcing Japan's Asian rivals to dial 911 for Uncle Sam, who has already given \$120 billion from the International Monetary Fund to bail out Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia. And, you guessed it, the White House says, they need it and the White House wants \$18 billion more for IMF.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Let us tell it like it is. This International Monetary Fund does not look like a loan program to me. It is starting to look like international welfare, and Japan is cashing the food stamps while they laugh all the way to the bank with our dollars.

You think about that, and I yield back the 207 points of fright on Wall Street.

THE PRESIDENT MUST CALL FOR AN END TO CHINA'S NOTORIOUS LABOR CAMPS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, in 1997 then-President Ronald Reagan signaled an end to the Cold War when he called upon Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall. The time has come for President Clinton to make a similar call to the Communist Chinese.

Next week President Clinton will have a landmark opportunity to call for human rights reforms in Communist China. He will have a historic opportunity, and millions of Americans hope and pray that he will not squander it.

The President will be greeted in Tiananmen Square. This is the same site where 9 years ago the world

watched as the Chinese Government brutally crushed the prodemocracy demonstration and killed or jailed thousands of Chinese citizens.

As the world's only true leader, America cannot abdicate its responsibility to call for an end to China's human rights abuses. At every turn, President Clinton must call on the Chinese Government to respect the rights of Chinese citizens to assemble and to freely express themselves. The President must speak for the conscience of the civilized world and call for an end to China's notorious labor camps.

The time has come for the U.S. to exercise its leadership and moral authority, and I sincerely hope that President Clinton doesn't waste it.

REFORMERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE SHOULD VOTE FOR COVERDELL LEGISLATION

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government should support success and condemn failure. Yet, when it comes to education for our children, the government does exactly the opposite. The special interests in Washington defend the status quo even for failing schools, and then when it comes to initiatives from the States that do work, Washington bureaucrats condemn them.

Our children are the ones who daily are being shortchanged. Congress has a chance to change all of that with a vote tomorrow on education IRAs. It gives parents more control over their children's education and it gives less control to special interests.

This is not a tough choice. The education of our children is too important to let special interest politics get in the way.

I urge reformers on both sides of the aisle to support the Coverdell legislation when it comes before this House tomorrow.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 15, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on June 15, 1998 at 4:01 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits to the Congress a report required by Condition (4)(A) of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.

COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER CONVENTION ON PROHIBITION OF DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND THEIR DESTRUCTION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress of The United States:

Attached is a report to the Congress on cost-sharing arrangements, as required by Condition (4)(A) of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 15, 1998.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO NELSON ROLIHLEHLA MANDELA

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3156) to present a congressional gold medal to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3156

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Nelson Mandela has dedicated his entire life to the abolition of apartheid and the creation of a true democracy in the Republic of South Africa and has sacrificed his own personal freedom for the good of everyone.

(2) For nearly 30 years as a political prisoner, Nelson Mandela never compromised his political principles, was a source of strength and education for other political prisoners, and refused offers of freedom in exchange for a renunciation of his personal and political beliefs.

(3) After his release from prison, Nelson Mandela continued to pursue his goal of a free South Africa, and was elected and subsequently inaugurated as State President of the Republic of South Africa on May 10, 1994, at the age of 75 years.

(4) Nelson Mandela's dedication to freedom did not cease once the apartheid laws were

lifted, as he then focused his efforts toward reconciliation by creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chaired by the Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

(5) Nelson Mandela is the recipient of many awards and accolades, including the Nobel Peace Prize (which he accepted with then-State President F.W. de Klerk in 1993), and more than 50 honorary degrees from universities around the world.

(6) Millions of individuals of all races and backgrounds in the United States and around the world followed Nelson Mandela's example and fought for the abolition of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa and in this regard the Congress recognizes Amy Elizabeth Biehl, an American student who lost her life in the struggle to free South Africa from racial oppression, and the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation displayed by her parents, Peter and Linda Biehl.

(7) Nelson Mandela is a prime example of how to work to heal the wounds of racism.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela in recognition of his life-long dedication to the abolition of apartheid and the promotion of reconciliation among the people of the Republic of South Africa.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is hereby authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I rise in support of H.R. 3156, the bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela, a man who is the linchpin of stability and democracy in Africa. I use the term advisedly because a linchpin is inserted at the end of a shaft to keep the wheel from coming off. It is an apt metaphor for the role of Mr. Mandela and South Africa at this point in the history of that troubled continent. Subsequent speakers will detail this Nobel Laureate's manifold

accomplishments and the international recognition he has received since his release from nearly 30 years' imprisonment on Robben Island.

H.R. 3156 complies with Committee on Banking and Financial Services' rules regarding the authorization of gold medals. Although a committee markup was not held, 293 Members are cosponsors. There is no known opposition from Members of Congress or the United States Mint.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is the product of the hard work of my esteemed colleague, the gentleman from New York (AMO HOUGHTON).

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and ask unanimous consent that he may be permitted to yield blocks of time to others who may wish to speak to this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for yielding me this time.

I would like to talk about this bill, H.R. 3156. I think it is a very important bill because it attacks an important issue in our society and one of the most exemplary men who lives today.

This is a bipartisan bill. Beside me is the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) of the Committee on International Relations. He and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. LEE HAMILTON), who is the minority member of that committee, have been endorsing it; the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NEWT GINGRICH), the Speaker; the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT); the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS); the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STEVE CHABOT); the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MARK SANFORD); the gentleman from New York (Mr. CHARLIE RANGEL); the gentleman from California (Mr. TOM CAMPBELL); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. DON PAYNE); the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. DOUG BEREUTER); the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ALCEE HASTINGS); the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS), importantly the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS); the gentleman from Washington (Mr. JIM McDERMOTT); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. BOB MENENDEZ); and Mr. RON DELLUMS, among others. And I think, as the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) said, there are almost 300 people that have signed on to this.

The Congressional Gold Medal is really very, very special. It was awarded first to George Washington in 1776, and then to a variety of other people, Jonas Salk, Robert Frost, Walt Disney, Mary Lasker, Frank Sinatra, Billy Graham, Mother Teresa, and Colin Powell. Nelson Mandela is really an appropriate addition to this esteemed list.

The simple yet important bill we propose here today recognizes Mr.

Mandela because of several features: one, his ending of racism in that important country of South Africa, in Africa; promoting democracy and also encouraging this extraordinary concept of truth and reconciliation.

Also, I would like to mention, Mr. Speaker, that Peter and Linda Biehl of La Quinta, California, are also recognized by the bill. Some of you may remember, this is an extraordinary family, whose daughter Amy was killed in one of the districts in South Africa trying to help and encourage in the teaching of young black children.

□ 1415

There is no recrimination, there is no nastiness, there is no retribution there. They actually testified in front of Bishop Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Committee and really represent everything that I am sure Mr. Mandela would have liked to have seen if he had been there by an example of his life.

The timing of this bill is pretty important. Today is called Youth Day. And Youth Day really represents an extraordinary day in 1976 when there was the student riots in Soweto and the ensuing deaths of many people.

Also, it just so happens, 2 days from now, on the 18th of June, will be Mr. Mandela's 80th birthday.

Now, let me also give credit to people who stood beside us as we were proposing this legislation. And sometimes we do not hear about them. There is the Fulbright Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Results Group, the Catholic Relief Services, the American Committee on Africa, the Education on Africa, African-American Institute, and Senator AL D'AMATO.

Let me try to encapsulate briefly what this medal means to me personally. First of all, it means great courage. Here is a man at the peak of his life representing everything that was good in South Africa, who was thrown into jail and stayed there almost unknown for 27 years. He came out of jail and, without any sense of violence or recrimination, started the process of healing the country, which ultimately ended up in his election as president.

I can remember myself personally going into Soweto in 1985 at Christmas time, and it was one of the most terrifying experiences. I had been in World War II, but this was pretty terrifying. Some of these southern Rhodesians that had come down as police, the apartheid police, ransacking their car, practically stripping them bare to see if they concealed any weapons. This was the type of country that he came back to try to reconcile.

He also has been associated with another hero, a great hero, which is Bishop Desmond Tutu, who has been in charge of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

Another thing that I think of with Mr. Mandela is here is a man who is really putting this nation back on track. As President Clinton has said

many times, freedom means nothing unless you can do something with it. He said this when he was over in South Africa in the presence of Nelson Mandela about a month ago.

He is really trying to knit together the economy so that the people who have been waiting for generations to be able to have meaningful jobs can get those jobs. It is not easy. We are trying to help. But he represents sort of an economic hope of job security, which nobody heretofore has represented.

Another reason is that this is pretty important for the continent of Africa. As my colleagues know, we cannot pick up the paper, whether it is the story of Nigeria or the Sudan or anything, without realizing the terrorism and horrifying examples that are taking place over there. Here is a man defying all the elements of dictatorship, striding ahead, representing the best that country has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I really think that from my own standpoint, and I really sort of echo the feelings of my friends I hope, the world needs heroes and here is the genuine hero. I was reading something by the historian Daniel Boorstin the other day and it said,

We are overwhelmed by the instant moment. We have lost our sense of history. We have lost interest in the real examples which alone can help us share standards for the humanity of the future. Everything that we do in America is based on the lives of people, some of whom we do not know, have never met, and never will. When we try to find out how those people have lived, we are really trying to find out how we ourselves live and what we are all about.

This is what Mr. Mandela is. Mr. Speaker, I am in awe of this man. Obviously, that is clear from what I said. There is no more fitting use of this great award than to give it to one of the world's great leaders. I thank my colleagues very much for letting me express myself here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in strong support of H.R. 3156, a bill to present a Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela.

I want to thank my colleague and good friend the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), a member of our Committee on International Relations, for introducing this bill and working so diligently to bring the measure to the floor at this time.

Mr. Speaker, Nelson Mandela is an international treasure. As the president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela is the embodiment of national reconciliation. His vision, his humility, and magnanimity have enabled South Africa to overcome the most bitter of social divisions.

Nelson Mandela was oppressed by apartheid for decades. He was jailed for more than a quarter of a century as a political prisoner. In his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, Nelson Mandela says,

It was during those long and lonely years that my hunger for the freedom of my own people became a hunger for the freedom of all people, white and black. I knew as well as I knew anything that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken away from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

Mr. Speaker, Nelson Mandela's words transcend South Africa and the fight against apartheid. They apply in Kosovo, to Bosnia, to Cambodia, to Afghanistan, to Rwanda, to Ireland, and any other place that is torn by ethnic, racial, or religious strife.

Nelson Mandela's words of national reconciliation are a strong echo of those said by President Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address in 1861. Lincoln spoke directly to those who would secede from the Union,

We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

Mr. Speaker, the better angels of our nature are personified in Nelson Mandela. It is entirely appropriate that we honor him with the Congressional Gold Medal. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this measure that has been offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we are here on the floor today considering legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela. It is a distinct honor to rise in support of this bill as the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Domestic and Independent National Monetary Policy of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

I would like to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for introducing this bill and his tireless work and commitment to see it become law.

Mr. Speaker, I take personal pride as a member of the Congress of the United States of America today and the work that I have been involved in for so many years because of Nelson Mandela and all of those brave men and women in South Africa who decided they would put their lives on the line to dismantle the unconscionable racist apartheid by the South African regime at that time.

I can recall getting interested in this issue. I was asked to serve on the

Board of Trans-Africa here in Washington D.C., headed by Randall Robinson. I was then a member of the California State Assembly. And because of my involvement on that board, I carried the divestment legislation for the State of California, divesting all of our pension funds from businesses that were doing business in South Africa.

Well, that work carried me all over the United States of America and, of course, to South Africa at the appropriate time. We had the opportunity to work with Members of Congress. We had the opportunity to travel all over the country to universities and colleges organizing students. We had the opportunity to offer our legislation as a model to other legislators who wanted to carry divestment legislation. We were carrying divestment legislation at the state level. We had brave members of Congress; i.e., Ron Dellums, and others who were carrying the sanctions legislation here in Congress.

We worked. We organized. We worked with Walter Sisulus. We worked with Mbeke. We worked with members of the ANC. We embraced the ANC when it was unpopular to do so because of the policy that they had embraced and the approach that they were taking to get rid of apartheid. It was some of the most important work that I have done in my entire career.

My divestment legislation was signed into law, and I think I am prouder of that legislation than any other legislation that I have carried either there or here in the Congress of the United States.

I traveled to South Africa when we first lifted the ban, when they first lifted the ban on the ANC and met with leaders from around the world as we talked about the work of the ANC. And of course, I traveled to South Africa on any number of cases, up to the point of time when Nelson Mandela was inaugurated to become the president of South Africa.

The work that Nelson Mandela did, the time that he served in prison, the years that he spent in isolation on Robben Island was really the most motivational experience any human being could have. To see him dedicated to the proposition that they would be free no matter how powerful, no matter how overwhelming that regime was, was a lesson to all of us who were involved on a day-to-day basis in the civil rights movement, involved on a day-to-day basis trying to get justice right here in our own country. We cried with those who were involved in that struggle.

When Nelson Mandela walked out of that prison, we stayed up all night and we danced the *tutu*. When he came to the United States following his release, I had the opportunity to produce him at the arena in Los Angeles, where we had 90,000 people who came and enjoyed his speech and a lot of cultural activity.

Again, I stand here today so pleased and proud to join with all of the Members who are principal coauthors and

who are just supportive of the idea that he deserves this recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I will close my comments simply by saying, we could not do a better thing here in this Congress than give recognition to this gentleman who showed us all what it means to be a human being that is committed to justice and equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3156, legislation providing for the awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal to South African President Nelson Mandela.

I want to first take a moment to express my appreciation to my friend and distinguished colleague from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON). I am pleased to join him as an original cosponsor. I thank him for working so hard to gather 291 cosponsors to this bill, and that is no small task.

□ 1430

I want to commend both the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and Bob Van Wicklin of his staff for their extraordinary efforts in this matter. Nelson Mandela has earned this honor. He clearly deserves it. He has spent his entire life engaging in a struggle for freedom, battling those forces who would deny democracy to millions of South Africans and standing firm against forces who would continue indefinitely institutional racism.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we bestow this honor on President Mandela as he spends his final year in public service, the culmination of a lifetime of work on behalf of his countrymen. I am pleased to support this legislation, and I hope that we pass it overwhelmingly.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my ranking member and distinguished chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my support and congratulations for this Congress being keen enough to honor one of the finest gentlemen in our world today, Mr. Nelson Mandela, with a Congressional Gold Medal. As has been said already, he served over 30 years in one of the most horrible prisons in the world. He saw many of his fellow men and freedom fighters assassinated and die during that time. Nelson Mandela is certainly a role model for all of us to follow. Freedom, dignity and strength for all of us. I, too, worked on the sanc-

tions bill in Michigan as we served in the Michigan legislature and am happy that the sanctions movement in this country made it possible not only for President Mandela to be free but to give all who suffer inhumanity a reason to live.

Mr. Speaker, let us pass with pride and dignity the Congressional Gold Medal for President Nelson Mandela.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reverence, honor, and true respect not only for this legislation, but for the ideals and goals of President Nelson Mandela. A Congressional Gold Medal is woefully inadequate for the faith in God, the dedication to freedom, and the willingness to work with his former oppressors for the good of the world that is manifest in the person of President Mandela. Every person who has ever dedicated her or his life to human rights needs to look no further than to President Mandela as a penultimate example of service to humankind.

As we move toward a new millennium, it is stunning to remember that President Mandela spent most of the last 50 years in prison at Robben Island, underground evading the South African police, or was fighting the various injustice and oppression that was apartheid. Before President Mandela was sentenced to life in prison at Robben Island, his statement from the dock in the Rivonia Trial ends with these words:

I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

For 27 years, President Mandela was at Robben Island Prison, a maximum security prison on a small island off the coast near Cape Town, South Africa; at Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town and in December 1988 he was moved to the Victor Verster Prison near Paarl from where he was eventually released. President Mandela repeatedly and flatly rejected various offers made by his jailers for release upon his acceptance of second-class citizenship for him and his people. As President Mandela often said, "prisoners cannot enter into contracts. Only free men can negotiate." His refusal to negotiate on anything less than an equal basis forged the fight for President Mandela, his wife Winnie, and his people in Africa and throughout the world.

Freedom rung on February 11, 1990 when President Mandela was released from active captivity. Mind you, I said "active captivity," as the spirit of President Mandela was never held captive. In 1991, at the first national conference of the African National Conference (ANC) held inside South Africa after being banned for decades, Nelson Mandela was elected President of the ANC while his lifelong friend and colleague, Oliver Tambo, became National Chairperson of the ANC. This day was fought for through the numerous protests and dedication of many organizations and individuals, specifically my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus, who continually and tirelessly put pressure upon Congress to adopt legislation that would ban trade and commerce with the then-oppressive government of South Africa.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that "the true measure of a man is not where he

stands during times of comfort and convenience, but where he stands during time of crisis and controversy." By Dr. King's words, President Mandela has set a standard that all Members of Congress should at least strive to attain. President Mandela, despite being chased like an animal in the streets of South Africa, beaten like a dead horse during inhuman and inhumane captivity over a quarter of a century, and being considered a banned person in the spoken and written word, never wavered in his devotion to democracy, equality and understanding. Despite terrible provocation, he has never answered racism with racism or hate with hate. His life continues to be an inspiration, in South Africa and throughout the world, to all who are oppressed and deprived, to all who are opposed to oppression and deprivation.

In a life that is the veritable symbol of the triumph of the human Nelson Mandela accepted the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of all South Africans who suffered and sacrificed so much to bring peace to the land of all of our mothers and fathers. It is my hope that when we award this Congressional Gold medal, we remember why we were elected to Congress in the first place: to concern ourselves not with the next election, but for making our country and our world better for the next generation. President Mandela demands nothing less from all of us—Democrat or Republican, Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, black or white. President Mandela has taught us the lesson of principles. It is time for Congress to collectively follow our teacher's courageous and superb guidance.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 3156, to present a Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) who has worked so hard on this for introducing the measure which I have cosponsored. I also want to thank his staff person, Bob Van Wicklin, for the work he has done on it, too. It does not happen without good staff. I also want to take note of the strong bipartisan support for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Nelson Mandela is a true hero, a role model for people all over the world who struggle for human rights, to the millions who still lack basic freedoms, and to many of us in this body. There is indeed something about this man. He exudes an aura of dignity, self-confidence, commitment, determination, of conviction of his views.

Nelson Mandela spent his adult life fighting for the freedom of his people, never wavering in his belief in the inherent dignity of all persons, regardless of color or creed. This is a lesson which he taught to colleagues in the African National Congress, to fellow political prisoners, and now to all South Africans. He never compromised his beliefs or his principles, no matter what reward was offered in return.

I can remember being involved with the Aspin Institute on a congressional project on South Africa which was during apartheid and then post-apartheid.

Therefore, meeting with Nelson Mandela, and before that, actually meeting in a place where we had members of the Conservative Party, members of the National Party, members of the ANC who met with us individually with guards. They could not come into the same room together. Now look at what has happened. Nelson Mandela was released, Nelson Mandela was sworn in as the President of South Africa, and apartheid is no more. What a great man.

As President, Nelson Mandela has continued to lead his people in the struggle for human rights and a democratic society. Importantly, he has also recognized the importance of societal reconciliation as a necessary component of this struggle. He is still a leader for millions of Americans and others who admire his leadership and his devotion to equal rights, and I am pleased that this Congress will recognize his work by presenting him with a Congressional Gold Medal.

I urge support for H.R. 3156.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding me this time and I want to thank the gentleman from New York. The two of us had an opportunity to be in South Africa last year.

I will say to my colleagues that this could not be a more deserving honor than to honor President Nelson Mandela. As one of his daughters said often that she grew up without a father who then returned and became the father of a nation, I would simply say for all of us in America, we recognized that this fatherhood was sacrificing and tender and caring and strong. That is why Nelson Mandela can stand on the African continent and be respected by all of the nations and all of the people.

It gives me great delight that we would come to this body and honor him. I am so very proud to be from a city like Houston and a State like Texas who knew immediately through the leadership of our respective black caucuses that we would divest our investments from South Africa. I salute the late Congressman Mickey Leland and the former council member Ernest McGowan who paid tribute by making sure that Texas stood strong. This is a great honor. He is a great friend. I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership. Together we will recognize one of the greatest persons in the history of the world, President Nelson Mandela.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for yielding me this

time and also for putting this wonderful effort together. Once in a while leadership just jumps up and this is the time, and we thank the gentleman so much for doing this.

Mr. Speaker, I was a South African, and I can speak from experience how total was apartheid, how brutal was the regime. I was privileged while in South Africa to participate in the struggle against apartheid and then later in my life as an American citizen to work with individuals and organizations to assure that the boycott against the apartheid regime continued. Throughout my life, Nelson Mandela has been a beacon, a beacon for peace, for justice, for reconciliation. Like Gandhi, like Martin Luther King, Jr., he rose from personal pain to become a hope for all of us. But Members do not really need to hear my words, because President Mandela himself describes himself and his humility, the humility of this man who spent 27 years in jail, 27 years for the crime of believing in democracy. How does he describe himself?

He says, "I was simply the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before me. That long and noble line ended and now began again with me. I was pained that I was not able to thank them and that they were not able to see what their sacrifices had wrought."

He said, "The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. But it had another unintended effect, and that was that it produced the Oliver Tambo, the Walter Sisulus, the Chief Luthulis, the Yusuf Dadoos, the Bram Fischers, the Robert Sobukwes, men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom, and generosity that their like may never be known again."

He said, "Perhaps it requires such depth of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds. It is from those comrades in the struggle that I learned the meaning of courage."

He said, "I never lost hope that this great transformation would occur. I always knew that deep down in every human heart there is mercy and generosity. No one is born hating another person because of the color of their skin. No one is born hating another person because of their background or their religion. People must learn to hate. And if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Even in the grimmest times in prison, I would see a glimmer of humanity in one of the guards, perhaps just for a second, but it would reassure me. Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues in supporting the award of the Congressional Gold Medal

to President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join this bipartisan group of my colleagues to recognize Nelson Mandela and to award him the Congressional Gold Medal as President of the Republic of South Africa.

As this is President Mandela's last year as President, I am encouraged that we will move as quickly as possible so that he will be able to receive this as President of South Africa.

Nelson Mandela sacrificed the prime years of his life, risking everything in the struggle against apartheid. He loves his country, he loves his fellow man, always striving to serve his people. His story is an inspiration to all of us. He loved everyone, regardless of color, class or creed.

I have been especially moved by the profound patience and mercy exhibited by President Mandela. When he came to power, he did not express feelings of anger or revenge. Rather, President Mandela convened a panel to address the brutality that was existing, the murders and apartheid as it existed.

We also take this moment to honor the work and sacrifice of American student Amy Biehl. I ask Members to join me in this effort.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I too am honored to speak on H.R. 3156 which authorizes the presentation a Congressional Gold Medal to the President of South Africa, President Nelson Mandela.

Mr. Speaker, I recall once watching the movie *Dances With Wolves*, and Kevin Costner was this young army lieutenant who learned to live with the Sioux Nation. In this one particular scene the Indian medicine man was walking along the river when this Indian chief turned to Mr. Costner and said that his whole life's ambition was to become a true human being.

To my colleagues and friends, Nelson Mandela truly fits the description of this Indian chief's life ambition. He was a true human being. After being tortured and imprisoned for some 30 years, this man holds no sense of bitterness or malice against his enemies. Here is a man, Mr. Speaker, and he truly deserves this award.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and I thank him for bringing this measure to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, if we stop and think about it, our Founding Fathers built

our country on a simple concept called freedom. Freedom is the ingredient that they willed for every human soul. Freedom is not something that Nelson Mandela saw for almost 30 years of his life, yet after getting out of jail, rather than constructing a life built around bitterness or built around revenge, he constructed a life built around freedom, around the simple idea of one man, one vote, around the idea of democracy. For that he deserves both our praise and this Congressional Medal of Honor.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

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Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her leadership, and I thank the leaders of this bipartisan effort to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela, the President of South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, among the leaders in the world today there is no one more deserving of our recognition and acknowledgment for this award than Nelson Mandela. The Congressional Gold Medal is an appropriate way to express our sense of honor, our sense of respect for the man who through his pain, his commitment and sacrifice brought pride and democracy to millions of South Africans and also was a symbol of what it meant to be free throughout the world. He became the symbol which ultimately led to the dismantling of apartheid in that country.

Mr. Speaker, apartheid means apartness. Those who supported and stood for the apartheid regime in South Africa would have maintained a system which constitutionally mandated that black South Africa live separately, differently, unlike others and apart from white South Africans. Nelson Mandela refused to accept that condition. He gave more than a quarter of a century of his life in opposition to this condition. I am delighted to join my friends in this award.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. WATERS. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The gentlewoman will state her inquiry.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire as to the number of minutes left, and also I would like to inquire as to whether or not Members who have wanted to be here and had signed up, who probably are in travel, if they will have an opportunity to enter their statements into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would assume that all Members will be given the usual opportunity to insert their statements in the RECORD, and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) has 10 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, recently, when the President traveled to Africa, of course one of the most important stops on that trip was South Africa, where we had an opportunity not only to see and talk with Nelson Mandela, but of course young Thabo Mbeki and others who were involved in the anti-apartheid movement. One of the most interesting things about the conversation and the proceedings involving the President of the United States and Nelson Mandela was Nelson Mandela's ability to talk straight talk to the President. There was discussion about the Africa trade bill, and Nelson Mandela was able to raise the kinds of questions that many leaders would not have been able to raise. Easily, and I think as we watched him in the way that he did that, we all concluded that Nelson Mandela had earned the right to ask anybody any questions he would like to ask them, to reserve the right to disagree and to reserve the right to give advice and to talk in ways that very few people get to do on the international stage.

And of course we all recognize that he earned this right because he put his life on the line, the 27 years that he had served much of that time in isolation, the fact that he had contracted tuberculosis while he was in prison, the fact that he sacrificed his family literally for the movement, the fact that he gave his life at a very early age when he first helped to organize the youth movement of the ANC, the fact that he was in the leadership of the protests that were called that are now identified as the famous Sharpsville riots where so many lives were lost; all of this on the world stage where people began to rally all over the world and where they developed friends from all over the world who contributed money, who contributed time, who engaged their government all because of the leadership of one man who exercised more power from imprisonment than most of us exercise with all of the freedoms that we have.

I stand here today, and it just so happens that I brought with me a replica of the ballot that was used when Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa. Not only is it a beautiful ballot, but it is an instructive ballot. It is a ballot that was designed to make sure that the average person could understand who they were voting for, what parties they were voting for and the face of the persons they were voting for. Here it is, and I keep this as one of my most prized mementos to remind me not only of the struggle of Nelson Mandela and the ANC and Walter Sisulu and Mr. Mbeki and all of the brave warriors that have been involved in the liberation of South Africa, but also to remind me of my own responsibility not only to be the best person that I can possibly be, but to challenge myself on a daily basis about my responsibility to freedom and justice.

To be on the cutting edge of this kind of work is not easy, and certainly we do not gain a lot of friends, but in the final analysis we stand here today with special recognition for Nelson Mandela even though many in our own country were opposed to what he was doing who said that we were going to bring down Wall Street with divestment and sanctions, who said that we were not mindful of the fiduciary responsibility of those who had great portfolios that we were asking to divest from businesses that were doing business in South Africa.

We are honored to be able to honor him today, and we are honored to have lived in a time where we witnessed the fall of a mighty powerful regime that was dedicated to the proposition that it was going to suppress and that it was going to deny and it was going to marginalize and not allow human beings to realize their full potential. This brilliant leader, this President of South Africa, stepped forward from imprisonment not bitter. He stepped forward with an approach that said when we rule it will be a nonracist, a nonsexist government that recognizes every human being, that everybody is important to this government and to this Nation.

If there was one thing that I could end up concluding about Nelson Mandela, it is if there is anybody that ever walked on God's Earth who could be considered a saint, it is Nelson Mandela. This man is still smiling. This man is still understanding that it is important to respect every human being on Earth. Everything that he has sacrificed, everything that he has given up, all of his trials and his tribulations are not for naught. He anointed through his work many people who never thought they would be inspired and motivated to be about the business of freedom. I am very pleased that I stand here today with Democrats and Republicans alike bestowing this honor on a man that a few years ago no one would have believed would have ever become President of South Africa. I am very pleased that there are those who say today, if only I had known, I wish I could have done more, I wish I could have understood better. I am very pleased to stand here today understanding that those who worked hard in the vineyard, those who had to educate, those who had to organize can say today my work was not in vain and how proud I am to have been a part of one of the most important movements in the history of this world.

As we watch the reconciliation hearings that are going on, we are learning an awful lot. We are learning that people on both sides made mistakes and that they are coming forward in this healing process to talk about those mistakes. I shuddered as I listened to some of the testimony. I shuddered as I listened to some of the plots and some of the recognition and some of the admissions, people who killed, people who experimented with all kind of

poisons, people who were describing how anthrax was experimented with. I shudder to think about the lives that were lost.

To tell my colleagues the truth, even though I was working in this movement and spent 7 years in the California State legislature on the legislation before it was passed, I never really thought I would see the day when South Africa would become a democracy, where South Africa would truly emerge with Nelson Mandela as President. I really did believe that blood would flow in the streets before that would have happened. How lucky we are to have our faith and our hope not only restored in all human beings, but to be instilled with the kind of pride that one can only gain from having experienced this movement, from having experienced these kind of human beings.

We think, some of us think, we have had it tough, some of us who think about what has happened here in America, and some of us who look at what happened just recently in Jasper, Texas, and we talk about how bad it has been and how bad it may be. But I want to tell my colleagues the warriors who helped to move South Africa all have stripes on their backs, the Sisulus and the Mbekis spent all 25 and 30 years in prison and came out and did this work, and while I am disgusted with just what happened to Mr. Byrd, Jr., in Jasper, Texas, and while I am disgusted with the copycat actions that have taken place since that time, and while I know the history of my foreparents here in America, and I understand what slavery is all about, and I understand what racism is all about, and I understand what discrimination is all about, as bad as it was, it does not measure up to what was going on in South Africa and the number of lives that have been lost.

And so I take this time on the floor of Congress today not only to gloat and to enjoy and to commend and to brag a little bit, but to simply say I guess I am proud to be an American today, and I hope that all of the Members of Congress will somehow be stronger and better because we move today to join hands across the aisle to recognize a man that perhaps could not have been recognized a few years back. I hope that we are resolved in our work to be just a little bit better and to confront any thoughts of racism and discrimination that we may harbor. I hope that we will not sit in a back room or we will not be involved in any shape, form or fashion in supporting racism ever again in our lives.

It is never too late to change.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

(Mr. LEACH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 3156, a bill to present a congressional gold medal to one of the towering figures of the 20th century, Nelson Mandela.

President Mandela is one of the most remarkable individuals of our time. His extraordinary personal devotion and sacrifice on behalf of multi-racial democracy in South Africa is an inspiration not only to the people of South Africa, but the United States and the world. President Mandela is a powerful symbol of courage, determination, hope, and perhaps above all, the uplifting power and majesty of mankind's enduring search for right in a world too often overwhelmed by wrongs.

As many Members recall, the struggle for a free South Africa presented a troubling philosophical dilemma for two conservative administrations in Washington. While the first Republican presidency chose to risk war rather than compromise principles to end extremist apartheid—slavery—the last two Republican administrations preferred to work with rather than against the former white-led government in Pretoria in an effort to help abolish apartheid in as civil and bloodless a way as possible. Fortunately, Washington found in F.W. de Klerk an establishment leader with the courage to change and in Nelson Mandela a uniquely martyred aspirant. Together in competitive combination they produced a unusually civilized political phenomenon—evolutionary revolution.

While economic sanctions seldom work, it was my view and that of our former colleague Ron Dellums and others that the U.S. had no ethical or political alternative except to embrace sanctions. Ending apartheid in this century was as great a moral imperative as ending slavery was in the last. Nonetheless, too often we forget the distinction between governments and their people, and too often sanctions aimed at punishing governments punish people.

One of the important models of U.S. policy is thus to understand why sanctions were not only appropriate but proved workable in South Africa. The key, it seems to me, is that they were overwhelmingly supported by the majority of the South African populace and their leaders such as Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela led a revolution from prison, and, to the astonishment of the world, succeeded without irreparable violence.

For a victim of racism to champion multiculturalism rather than reverse racism reflects a largeness of spirit that merits the appreciation not only of his country but the community of nations, most particularly this one. I therefore urge support for this very symbolic legislation.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues very much for this debate. Mr. Speaker, this has been a wonderful debate, a wonderful expression of sentiments, feelings about people in this country. As I listened to it, Mr. Mandela is not only bringing South Africans together but I have a feeling he is bringing all of us together.

One other point: I am told that all great ideas ultimately degenerate into work. There was a great deal of enthusiasm, but also there was a great deal of work involved, and I want to thank Robert Van Wicklin for all he has done.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for all Members to have five legislative days to be able to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3156.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for the passage of H.R. 3156, a bill which would authorize the President to present, on behalf of Congress, a Congressional gold medal to President Nelson Mandela of South Africa in recognition of his lifetime dedication to the abolition of apartheid and the promotion of freedom and justice for all the people of his nation. I can think of no person who deserves such an honor more than Nelson Mandela.

In the face of great adversity and suffering extreme personal hardship and sacrifice, President Mandela led the struggle to bring an end to the insidious policy of apartheid and to establish in its place a flourishing multi-racial, multi-ethnic democracy in South Africa. His steadfast dedication to these goals continues to galvanize and serve as an inspiration to those around the world who are struggling for freedom, justice, and democracy today.

Moreover, President Mandela's commitment to the people of South Africa did not end with the lifting of apartheid. Since assuming the presidency in 1994, he has strived to further the process of healing and reconciliation of all of South Africa's people. Bearing no malice for the injustice and mistreatment he suffered under apartheid, he has sought to bring South Africans of all races and cultures together in a spirit of peace, humility, and reconciliation. The strength of South Africa's emerging pluralism today is a testament to President Mandela's integrity, courage and leadership. His vision serves as a model across the world.

It is for this reason that I am a proud original co-sponsor of this measure. It is more an honor than a privilege to urge the bestowal upon Nelson Mandela of one of our nation's highest honors. I hope all Members will join me in recognizing Nelson Mandela by supporting this measure before us today.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Nelson Mandela Congressional Gold Medal Award sponsored by my colleague, AMO HOUGHTON—the gentleman from New York. I know of no person that deserves to receive this award than President Nelson Mandela.

I have had the opportunity of meeting with President Mandela on several occasions. The most moving experience, no matter how many times I go there, is visiting the notorious Robben Island where Mandela spent 27 of his years in solitary confinement in the maximum security prison. He had to pick rocks with a small hammer every single day. It takes a very strong man to endure this type of treatment and come out of prison and forgive, become the President and lead his country out of apartheid era to one of rebirth.

And I will be visiting South Africa next month to discuss with him a telecommunications project and satellite systems to go to townships in rural area facilitated by the Discovery Channel. I can truly say that he is thoughtful, yet punctual and disciplined man. The years in jail reinforced habits that were already entrenched. With a standard working

day of at least 12 hours, time management is critical.

Let me say that I am very disturbed by the recent finding by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Rensburg, a researcher at the Roodeplaat Research Laboratories (RRL), which produced chemical and biological weapons for the apartheid security forces, said his boss Andre Immelman told him of a plan to poison Mandela. The secret document contained statements saying and I quote, "Mandela must be in a relatively weak physical condition so that he can not operate as a leader for long." This lethal poison thallium was to be placed in the form of chocolates and other foods. If he had taken this—if he did not die—he would have had severe brain damage. I can not imagine any man having to endure this horrific treatment.

President Mandela says his greatest pleasure, in his most private moment, is watching the sun set with the music of Handel, Tchaikovsky or African chorus playing. Locked up in his cell during daylight hours, deprived of music, both these simple pleasures were denied him for decades. In a life that symbolizes the triumph of the human spirit over man's inhumanity against man, let us make this simple gesture to the President of the Nation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I rise today in support of H.R. 3156, a bill that would give the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela, the Congressional Gold Medal.

Led by Rep. AMO HOUGHTON, Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH and minority leader DICK GEPHARDT, this bill would bestow the Nation's highest civilian honor on a much deserving candidate. It is an honor to be among the cosponsors of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, since the first gold medal was given to George Washington in 1776 more than one hundred medals have been awarded.

Most recently we awarded the gold medal to Mother Teresa, The Rev. Billy and Ruth Graham and Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew. These honorable people along with all the recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal have been instrumental in the development of the societies and communities that span across the seven seas, helping to shape, the world as we know it. Nelson Mandela has lived his life within the confines of this longstanding tradition that the gold medal represents.

Mr. Speaker, Nelson Mandela has made it his purpose in life to rid his beloved native land of the evil constraints of apartheid while empowering his fellow citizens with a democratic society. For three decades, Mr. Mandela was imprisoned for his efforts yet he never compromised his beliefs or relinquished his commitment to freeing South Africa from its racist torment. This was made obviously clear when he became the father of the nation that incarcerated him.

Mr. Speaker, he is a rare human being who emerged from prison to become president.

Mr. Speaker, this will be Nelson Mandela's final year in office. Along with my colleagues, I feel that honoring him at this time would be most appropriate.

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of the greatest leaders of our era, President Nelson Rolihlaha Mandela.

Nelson Mandela's lifelong struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa earned him the

Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, the Presidency of his country and worldwide acclaim. Nelson Mandela spent twenty-seven years in prison because he believed in the equality of all, sacrificing his own personal liberty for his convictions.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting tribute to this most deserving leader. Following his ascendancy to the Presidency of his nation, President Mandela signed into law the South Africa's new constitution which includes sweeping human rights and anti-discrimination guarantees. Nelson Mandela has never wavered in his devotion to democracy and equality. Despite terrible provocation, he has never responded in kind to the scourge of racism. His life has been an inspiration, in South Africa and throughout the world, to all who are oppressed and deprived and to all who are opposed to oppression and deprivation.

I hope that we all examine our souls and understand our responsibility to make our own nation as tolerant of diversity as Mr. Mandela has worked to make South Africa; not just for the sake of our own generation, but the generations to come.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in honoring one of the great heroes and leaders of this century, Nelson Mandela. President Mandela should be an inspiration to us all—despite unbelievable pain, defeat and suffering, he did not become bitter. Despite almost 30 years in prison, Nelson Mandela did not give up hope. He did not get lost in a sea of despair.

Instead, he turned his suffering into something meaningful. He believed in the power of possibility and of hope. He came out of jail willing to work with his jailers, willing to being the healing of his country.

Because of his leadership and his example, the future of South Africa holds promise. The country must meet many difficult challenges, but they meet them led by a man who has shown tremendous courage and compassion.

Nelson Mandela takes us closer to what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used to call the Beloved Community, a community based on justice, hope and compassion—a community at peace with itself.

President Mandela, I honor you and I hope that we in this country and all over the world can learn from you and your example.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon Members of the House are rising to explain to our colleagues and the American public why it is fitting for the House of Representatives to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the President of South Africa, the Honorable Nelson Mandela. At the same time, a delegation of South African government officials is at work in our nation's capital. The delegation has just concluded two days of meetings in New York and has traveled to Washington, D.C. to explore how the South African government can work with their nation's financial community to foster community development in their homeland.

As one would expect, the racial composition of that delegation is mixed, drawn from the black and white populations within South Africa. It is a delegation of individuals working together for their government and the people of their nation. Would this delegation, different in race but together in spirit and purpose, be possible today if it were not for the life-long efforts of Nelson Mandela? Perhaps, but not likely.

Others more familiar with President Mandela's life journey from a prison cell to the Office of the President of South Africa will speak eloquently about the man we honor. I rise simply to say I believe it is most appropriate to honor a man who is the recipient of the 1993 Noble Peace Prize and a man who will soon step down as President of South Africa when his term expires in April of 1999.

H.R. 3156 was introduced by Congressman AMO HOUGHTON. It is co-sponsored by a majority of the House, including Speaker GINGRICH and Minority Leader GEPHARDT. The Congressional Gold Medal is our nation's highest civilian honor presented to just over 100 individuals in our nation's history. Nelson Mandela will join people like Thomas Edison, Robert Frost, Winston Churchill and, most recently, Mother Teresa as Congressional Gold Medal recipients.

I extend my gratitude to my colleagues on the Banking Committee, notably Chairman LEACH and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee, Congressman CASTLE and Congresswoman WATERS, respectively, for their efforts in bringing this bill to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3156 and ask you to join with me to congratulate Nelson Mandela for his life's work.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3156, and I commend our colleague AMO HOUGHTON for his initiative, leadership, and hard work in garnering some 290 cosponsors of the bill and in bringing it before the House. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bill to give the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela, because he is one of the great leaders of our time.

Nelson Mandela stands out about all else for his espousal of policies of reconciliation and his vision of the future. This is remarkable for a man who, for most of his adult life, was a prisoner of apartheid, spending 27 years in prison, including 18 on Robben Island.

In the past four years, Nelson Mandela has striven to bring South Africa's races together. While seeking to improve the lives of South Africa's disadvantaged, a majority of the population, Nelson Mandela continued to address the concerns of all South Africans. By leading a government of national unity, Mandela successfully practiced a policy of inclusiveness, and reached out to a broad range of South African society.

President Mandela led South Africa through its historic transition, culminating in his election as president in 1994. During his presidency, the government has focused on improving health care, education, and housing for South Africa's disadvantaged population. President Mandela's government also implemented market-oriented economic policies that have maintained international confidence in South Africa's stability.

In addition, Mr. Mandela, having announced from the beginning that he would serve only one term, stepped down last December as head of the African National Congress, clearing the way for his successor who will be chosen in next year's elections.

In 1993, Nelson Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize which recognized his efforts and accomplishments in opposing apartheid and in diminishing the gap between blacks and whites in South Africa. It is a fitting tribute to this great leader that he receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I again commend Mr. Houghton on his work on this legislation and I urge the House to pass this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to ask that the United States Congress award its highest distinction to Nelson Mandela, a man who fought for freedom for the people of South Africa, and became a beacon of hope for people all around the world. When on trial for the crime of fighting against apartheid, he said these famous words:

I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

When, after a quarter century of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela was inaugurated President of South Africa in 1994, he did not disappoint the millions of people who believed in him. He embarked on the hard path of reconciliation and healing, rather than the easy road of revenge and divisiveness.

I and many of my colleagues had the honor of working with President Mandela when we voted to impose sanctions on the old South Africa, and many of us were able to meet with him again when we traveled to the new South Africa with the President. Mr. Speaker, there is no one who fought more or gave up more for the ideals of justice and equality which Americans hold dear. And therefore, I believe that there is no one more worthy of receiving the honor of a Congressional Gold Medal.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3156, the bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to President Nelson Mandela.

As one of the most gentle, charismatic, and dynamic leaders in history, the life of Nelson Mandela stands as source of strength for all who have experienced and oppression, and an inspiration to those who continue the struggle to overcome injustice and discrimination against others.

After suffering conditions that would cause most to lash out in pain and anger, this remarkable peaceful man never countered racism with hatred. Despite spending nearly three decades of his life imprisoned, Nelson Mandela never wavered in his commitment to peace, freedom, and social and economic justice not only for the people of South Africa, but globally. In this way, he provides for us a profound example of the ability of the human spirit to rise up and triumph over evil forces.

Many in this chamber may be aware of the pivotal role that my predecessor, The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums, played in proposing sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa, which helped to bring its downfall. The sanctions were ultimately instrumental in the release of Nelson Mandela from prison and the successful transition of the country to a truly non-racial democracy.

On May 10, 1994, as an international poll observer in South Africa, I had the humbling and incredible experience to witness the first free, peaceful, democratic elections which chose this extraordinary human being as President. There is no more appropriate and fitting leader to lead the people of South Africa into their bright and hopeful future. In the past four years, under the leadership of Nelson

Mandela, South Africa has grown substantially stronger and healthier, and stands as a world leader in its own right.

I am proud and pleased to join with my colleagues today in support of H.R. 3156. It is fitting at this moment in our history to recognize and honor the President of South Africa, His Excellency Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon Members of the House are rising to explain to our colleagues and the American public why it is fitting for the House of Representatives to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the President of South Africa, the Honorable Nelson Mandela. At the same time, a delegation of South African government officials is at work in our nation's capital. The delegation has just concluded two days of meetings in New York and has traveled to Washington, D.C. to explore how the South African government can work with their nation's financial community to foster the community development in their homeland.

As one would expect, that racial composition of the delegation is mixed, drawn from the black and white populations within South Africa. It is a delegation of individuals working together for their government and the people of their nation. Would this delegation, different in race but together in spirit and purpose, be even possible today if it were not for the life long efforts of Nelson Mandela? Perhaps, but not likely.

Others more familiar with President Mandela's life journey from a prison cell to the Office of the President of South Africa will speak eloquently about the man we honor. I rise simply to say I believe it is most appropriate to honor a man who is the recipient of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize and a man who will soon step down as President of South Africa when his term expires in April of 1999.

H.R. 3156 was introduced by Cong. AMO HOUGHTON. It is co-sponsored by a majority of the House, including Speaker GINGRICH and Minority Leader GEPHARDT. The Congressional Gold Medal is our nation's highest civilian honor presented to just over 100 individuals in our nation's history. Nelson Mandela will join people like Thomas Edison, Robert Frost, Winston Churchill and, most recently, Mother Teresa as Congressional Gold Medal recipients.

May I extend my gratitude to my colleagues on the Banking Committee, notable Chairman LEACH and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee, Congressman CASTLE and Congresswoman WATERS, respectively, for their efforts in bringing this bill to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3156 and ask you to join with me to congratulate Nelson Mandela for his life's work.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 3156, a bill to present a congressional gold medal to one of the towering figures of the 20th century, Nelson Mandela.

President Mandela is one of the most remarkable individuals of our time. His extraordinary personal devotion and sacrifice on behalf of multi-racial democracy in South Africa is an inspiration not only to the people of South Africa, but the United States and the world. President Mandela is a powerful symbol of courage, determination, hope, and perhaps above all, the uplifting power and majesty of mankind's enduring search for right in a world too often overwhelmed by wrongs.

As many Members recall, the struggle for a free South Africa presented a troubling philosophical dilemma for two conservative administrations in Washington. While the first Republican presidency chose to risk war rather than compromise principles to end extremist apartheid—slavery—the last two Republican administrations preferred to work with rather than against the former white-led government in Pretoria in an effort to help abolish apartheid in as civil and bloodless a way as possible. Fortunately, Washington found in F.W. de Klerk an establishment leader with the courage to change and in Nelson Mandela a uniquely martyred aspirant. Together in competitive combination they produced an unusually civilized political phenomenon—evolutionary revolution.

While economic sanctions seldom work, it was my view and that of our former colleague Ron Dellums and other leaders outside Congress such as Randall Robinson that the U.S. had no ethical or political alternative except to embrace sanctions. Ending apartheid in this century was as great a moral imperative as ending slavery was in the last. Nonetheless, too often we forget the distinction between governments and their people, and too often sanctions aimed at punishing governments punish people. One of the most important models of U.S. policy is thus to understand why sanctions were not only appropriate but proved workable in South Africa. The key, it seems to me, is that they were overwhelmingly supported by the majority of the South African populace and their legitimate though unelected leaders such as Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela led a revolution from prison and, to the astonishment of the world, succeeded without unleashing either irreparable violence or counter-productive retribution.

For a victim of racism to champion multiculturalism rather than reverse racism reflects a largeness of spirit that merits the appreciation not only his country but the community of nations, most particularly this one. I therefore urge support for this very symbolic legislation.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3156.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FASTENER QUALITY ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3824) amending the Fastener Quality Act to exempt from its coverage certain fasteners approved by the Federal Aviation Administration for use in aircraft, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3824

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.

Section 15 of the Fastener Quality Act (15 U.S.C. 5414) is amended—